

In the late sixties, Rabbi Sugarman moved to the West Coast, and began working with the Jewish community of the Shaarey Zedek Congregation in North Hollywood. With thirty years of spiritual leadership of the highest accord, Rabbi Sugarman is a highly-respected individual by both the Shaarey Zedek congregation members and by the whole Jewish community in Southern California.

In addition to caring for the needs of the Jewish Community, Rabbi Sugarman is also a husband, father of five, and a grandfather of twenty-six.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Rabbi Marvin Sugarman. He is deserving of our utmost respect and praise.

MY VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 1998

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the enclosed prize winning script written by Ms. Hannah Leatherbury.

MY VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY

1997-98 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP
COMPETITION—GEORGIA WINNER

(By Hannah Leatherbury)

This morning I woke up and fixed myself a bowl of Lucky Charms. I sat down with my cereal and turned on the T.V. to the "Today" news program. At the news desk, Anne Curry was reporting on the events of the U.P.S. strike, and the effectiveness of the postal workers' protest. After the commercial break, Katie Couric began speaking to a woman in Illinois who was holding her own protest. This woman was protesting the behavior of her children. She had climbed a tree in her front yard and was remaining "on strike" until her children agreed to do their chores and adjust their attitudes. Katie asked the woman if her protest had succeeded and the mother triumphantly replied: "Yes." At first I asked myself how this story qualified as NEWS; and suddenly it dawned on me that even the commonplace person has the right to be heard. Here was a lady from Illinois who was being interviewed on national television because in our democracy she had the right to state her opinion and to have it be heard. This irritated mother was being listened to as widely as the participants of the U.P.S. strike. My voice, like hers, has the ability to sound as loud and as clear as the liberty bell itself.

I can express my opinions through writing. I can write my local newspaper and state my views on important issues. Not only can my letter influence the topic of the next editorial, but I can even be printed in conjunction with the editorial. I can write for my school newspaper and voice my opinion to my peers. I can write letters to my local congressman explaining my concerns with the decisions being made in the legislature. I can even voice my opinion in a letter to the president. In our democracy I can be confident that, through my writing, my voice is heard in even the highest branches of the government.

As a consumer I can call or write businesses and respond to the quality of their products. If my whip cream isn't satisfactory

all I need to do is write the consumer goods services and wait for a reply. On paper my voice is one of an opinionated person, not one of an insignificant teenager.

My voice can be heard by joining and organizing groups that share in my beliefs in my community. The student government in my school allows students to share their ideas in improving their school P.L.A.N.E.T. (the school organized environmental group) allows young people my age to take a stand against pollution. There are so many organizations in a community's schools, churches, and businesses which give us all the opportunity to speak up.

I can even organize my own protests if my opinion is strong enough. I have the ability to boycott and convince others to boycott businesses. If there is a legitimate reason for opposition, your age and social status does not matter; you can be heard. I can speak of the absurdity and lack of intelligence in our nation's top positions and not have to worry about being slapped with a charge of treason. I can laugh out loud and comment on the editorial cartoon making fun of the government without going to jail. The United States Constitution grants us all the freedom of choosing to use our voices.

Without democracy, this morning and every morning of my life would be dramatically different. The government could ban Lucky Charms from the shelves for its high sugar content, and I would have no right to protest the decision. The news would be filled with the same faces of rich powerful government officials. Instead of the cheerful Katie Couric, we would be greeted each morning by a government appointed figure (similar to the teacher of Ferris Buler) with a monotonous voice and a personality comparable to that of an inchworm. The government would have the authority to tell the American people what they wanted us to hear, thus we would repeat what our government wanted us to repeat without question. We would hear only of "important" people and the woman in Illinois could forget about having her voice heard.

In a country without democracy, my voice would be one among thousands of precious pearls locked in a safe never to be displayed in public. Fortunately, democracy enables my tiny pearl of wisdom to be removed from its safe and placed on a necklace to be worn at a grand banquet.

CONGRATULATING THE METHODIST HOSPITALS, INC

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, It is my distinct pleasure to congratulate The Methodist Hospitals, Inc. as it celebrates its 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary this Sunday, May 17, 1998. Methodist will commemorate its 75 years of dedicated service to the communities of Northwest Indiana in a Rededication to Community Service ceremony and Community Open House to be held at its Northlake Campus in Gary, Indiana. The celebration will serve as an opportunity for Methodist to reaffirm its commitment to excellence in health care services to every individual in Gary, Merrillville, and the surrounding communities.

Methodist Hospital was established in 1923 in response to concerns that a larger hospital

would be needed to accommodate the growing population of the emerging "Steel City" of Gary. The events leading up to Methodist's dedication on May 27, 1923, however, can be traced back to 1910, when a registered nurse by the name of Margaret Pritchard came to Gary with the vision of establishing a hospital. In acquiring donations from a group of doctors in 1911, Ms. Pritchard witnessed the accomplishment of this task with the opening of Gary General Hospital on Van Buren Street. Over the next few years, measures were taken to provide for Gary General's future funding and growth, which resulted in an affiliation with Methodist Episcopal Hospital of the State of Indiana in Indianapolis, a major fundraising campaign targeting the steel mills, and the donation of property by the Gary Land Company. On June 11, 1923, Methodist Hospital and its School of Nursing officially opened.

After Methodist separated from the hospital board in Indianapolis in 1942, it expanded through major construction efforts and development of services to accommodate health care needs beyond the boundaries of Gary. Some of the hospital's additional services came with its establishment of Lake County's first physical therapy department in 1949, the county's first acute care unit for psychiatric patients in 1951, and the state's first accredited, full-service rehabilitation services center in 1971. Methodist further expanded its services to Northwest Indiana when it built a new 165-bed hospital facility in Merrillville, Indiana, which was completed in 1975. As a result of its growth, Methodist became regarded as a regional health care system and thus, the two facilities became Northlake Campus in Gary and Southlake Campus in Merrillville. In February of 1981, H. Theodore Tatum Family Health Center opened at the Northlake Campus, providing a base for the Family Practice Residency Program, and offering additional medical care for the community.

During the past two decades, Methodist Hospital has continued to grow and change, reflecting the needs of the communities and responding to the new era of outpatient services made possible by advances in technology and medicine. Methodist remains a not-for-profit community-based health care system, and is affiliated with various prestigious organizations, including: the Joint Commission for American Hospital Organizations; the Indiana State Board of Health, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education; and the American Academy of Family Physicians. Over the years, Methodist has taken an active role in bettering its communities by forging partnerships with schools, churches and businesses, and participating in outreach programs, such as Healthy Start, for prenatal and infant wellness, and Turning Point Center for addictions. In its 75th year of existence, Methodist Hospital has renewed its commitment to the residents of Northwest Indiana into the next century and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the administrators, health care professionals, and other individuals who, over the years, have contributed to Methodist Hospitals' success in achieving its standards of excellence. Their hard work has improved the quality of life for everyone in Indiana's First Congressional District.